

Capsule Summary  
SM-607  
St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease  
Colton's Point Vicinity  
Private

c. 1900

As Colton's Point became an attraction for summer visitors as well as a home for local watermen, the congregation of All Saints Church located in Oakley, Maryland saw the need to establish a mission to minister to the residents of Colton's Point. Beginning in 1895, a pastor from All Saints Church named Mr. Saumerig realized that many residents were Episcopal but lacked adequate means of transportation to get to All Saints for weekly service and so began preaching there.<sup>1</sup> By 1900 Miss Nell Palmer and Miss Elizabeth Blackistone convinced the vestry of the parish to erect a permanent worshipping facility.

In 1900, the vestry purchased a one acre tract from Robert and Eleanora Yates and erected a Gothic style church adorned with a decorative vergeboard, triangular crowned windows, and a projecting tower. The interior was characterized by its diagonal matchstick walls, chamfered scissor roof trusses, and a chancel decorated with Gothic-arched openings. This new chapel, called the St. Agnes Mission and later St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease proved useful for the parish when repairs to the 1846 All Saints Church required the congregations removal to the new building in 1906. Waning interest, low attendance, and rising costs associated with maintaining two churches eventually caused the parish to sell the property in 1962. Overall, the building is a significant example of modest Gothic architectural detail and serves as a symbol of population growth and contraction in the area.

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<sup>1</sup> Information for the significance statement was gleaned from Mrs. Marjorie Dent Reaney, "Some Early Pastors of All Saints Episcopal Church" St. Mary's Chronicles Vol 23, No. 8, August 1975. and All Saints Church, Oakley, Maryland: One Hundredth Anniversary, na, np, 1946 (Booklet on file at the St. Mary's County Historical Society).

SM-607, St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Religion

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Church
Known Design Source:	None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-607

Magi No.

DOE yes no

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Agnes Mission

and/or common St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease (pref.)

**2. Location**

SW corner of Waterloo Circle and Colton's Point Rd.  
street & number

not for publication

city, town Colton's Point

x vicinity of

congressional district 7

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

TM-46, B-17, P-260

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<u>occupied</u>	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>x private</u>	<u>x unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>
<u>site</u>	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>x yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>
	<u>x not applicable</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>
			<u>museum</u>
			<u>park</u>
			<u>x private residence</u>
			<u>religious</u>
			<u>scientific</u>
			<u>transportation</u>
			<u>other:</u>

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William Choporis

street & number 16110 Alderwood Lane

telephone no.: 301-249-1662

city, town Bowie

state and zip code Maryland 20716

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber EWA 750

street & number

folio 213

city, town Leonardtown

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

   federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-607

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease is located on the west side of Route 242 at the northern intersection of Route 242 and Waterloo Circle Road near Palmers, Maryland. The church is oriented on an east/west axis and is situated on a flat .98 acre lot. This lot is overgrown with pine trees and undergrowth and the building is currently vacant.

The St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease, constructed c. 1900, is a one story, three bay, frame building with a gable roof and a wing on the north side. A brick pier foundation (recently replaced) supports the church's frame. The exterior sheathing consists of "German" bevel siding fastened to the circular sawn frame with mature cut nails. The cornice is enclosed with matchstick sheathing and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The primary or east elevation consists of the gable end of the church as well as the side of a wing on the north side of the building. The main block features a centrally located double door (now gone) flanked on either side by narrow, lancet windows. The area immediately in front of the double door features a poured concrete foundation presumably for a projecting vestibule that extended to a height beyond the eave line. This projecting vestibule, however, has been removed. The eave of this elevation features a decorative vergeboard as well as cornice returns. The wing is pierced by a single door.

Four symmetrically placed windows pierce the south elevation. Each window was originally a two-over-two, double-hung sash window, although they are currently covered over with scabbed doors and other materials.

The rear or west elevation consists of the gable end of the church and the side of the addition. The main block is pierced by a basement entry (now gone) as well as a large lancet window located just above the level of the cornice returns. Like the east elevation a vergeboard decorates the eaves. The side of the addition is pierced by a window.

The north elevation consists of the side of the main block as well as the gable end of the wing. The main block is pierced by two windows to the east of the wing and one window to the west of the wing. All of these windows are covered over. The wing is not pierced but it does exhibit cornice returns as well as a decorative vergeboard.

The interior of the Episcopal Church is entirely panelled with tongue-and-groove matchstick set diagonally along the walls and ceiling. It appears as if the floor has been replaced so the exact placement of the pews cannot be determined. The floor level is interrupted, however, as a raised altar or dias is located on the west side of the sanctuary. The altar is further distinguished by lancet openings that rise nearly to roof level from slender chamfered supports. The roof is supported, as well as decorated by, a series of chamfered scissor trusses. A door located on the north side of the building just below the altar leads to what was probably a vestment room.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-607

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

As Colton's Point became an attraction for summer visitors as well as a home for local watermen in the late-nineteenth century, the congregation of All Saints Church located in Oakley, Maryland saw the need to establish a mission to minister to this isolated community. Beginning in 1895, a pastor from All Saints Church named Mr. Saumerig realized that many residents of Colton's Point were Episcopal but lacked adequate means of transportation to get to All Saints for weekly service and so began preaching there.<sup>1</sup> By 1900 Miss Nell Palmer and Miss Elizabeth Blackistone convinced the vestry of the parish to erect a permanent worshipping facility.

In 1900, the vestry purchased a 1/2 acre tract from Robert and Eleanora Yates and erected a Gothic style church adorned with a decorative vergeboard, triangular crowned windows, and a projecting tower. The interior was characterized by its diagonal matchstick walls, chamfered scissor roof trusses, and a chancel decorated with Gothic-arched openings. This new chapel, called the St. Agnes Mission and later St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease proved useful for the parish when repairs to the 1846 All Saints Church required the congregations removal to the new building in 1906. Waning interest, low attendance, and rising costs associated with maintaining two churches eventually caused the parish to sell the property in 1962. Overall, the building is a significant example of modest Gothic architectural detail and serves as a symbol of population growth and contraction in the area.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-607

(See Significance 8.0)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .98 acres

Quadrangle name Stratford Hall Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoning date 6-9-98

street & number 22740 Washington Street telephone 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

SM-607, St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 750, Folio 213

Grantee: William G. Choporis

Grantor: John Choporis

Date: January 2, 1993

Notes: The deed notes that the property contains .98 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 105, Folio 63

Grantee: John Choporis

Grantor: Henry I. Friese, Senior Warden, Vestry of All Saints Parish

Date: October 31, 1962

Notes: The tract is called "Part of Little Hackley" and contains about 1/2 acre.

Reference: Liber EBA 3, Folio 38

Grantee: Vestry of All Saints Parish

Grantor: Robert W. and Eleanora Yates

Date: January 5, 1900

Notes: It is here that the tract is subdivided from the larger land tract called "Little Hackley."

Reference: Liber EBA 1, Folio 107

Grantee: Robert W. Yates

Grantor: J. Marshall Dent, extr. for John F. Dent and Robert C. Combs, trustee

Date: August 22, 1899

Reference: Liber EBA 1, Folio 106

Grantee: Robert W. and Eleanor Yates

Grantor: Nannie S. Blackistone

Date: June 22, 1899

Notes: At the cost of \$500, 100 acres of a tract called part of "Little Hackley Farm," is transferred. The deed also notes that the sale of the property was ordered by a circuit court of equity case between Combs and Downs vs. Thomas J. Jamison, Equity no. 390.

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 322

Grantee: Nannie S. Blackistone

Grantor: John F. Dent

Date: November 17, 1890

Notes: The property here is listed as containing 200 acres. Nannie S. Blackiston is granted a life estate to the property.

VIRGINIA - MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC - BATHYMETRIC)

5660  
(LEONARD)

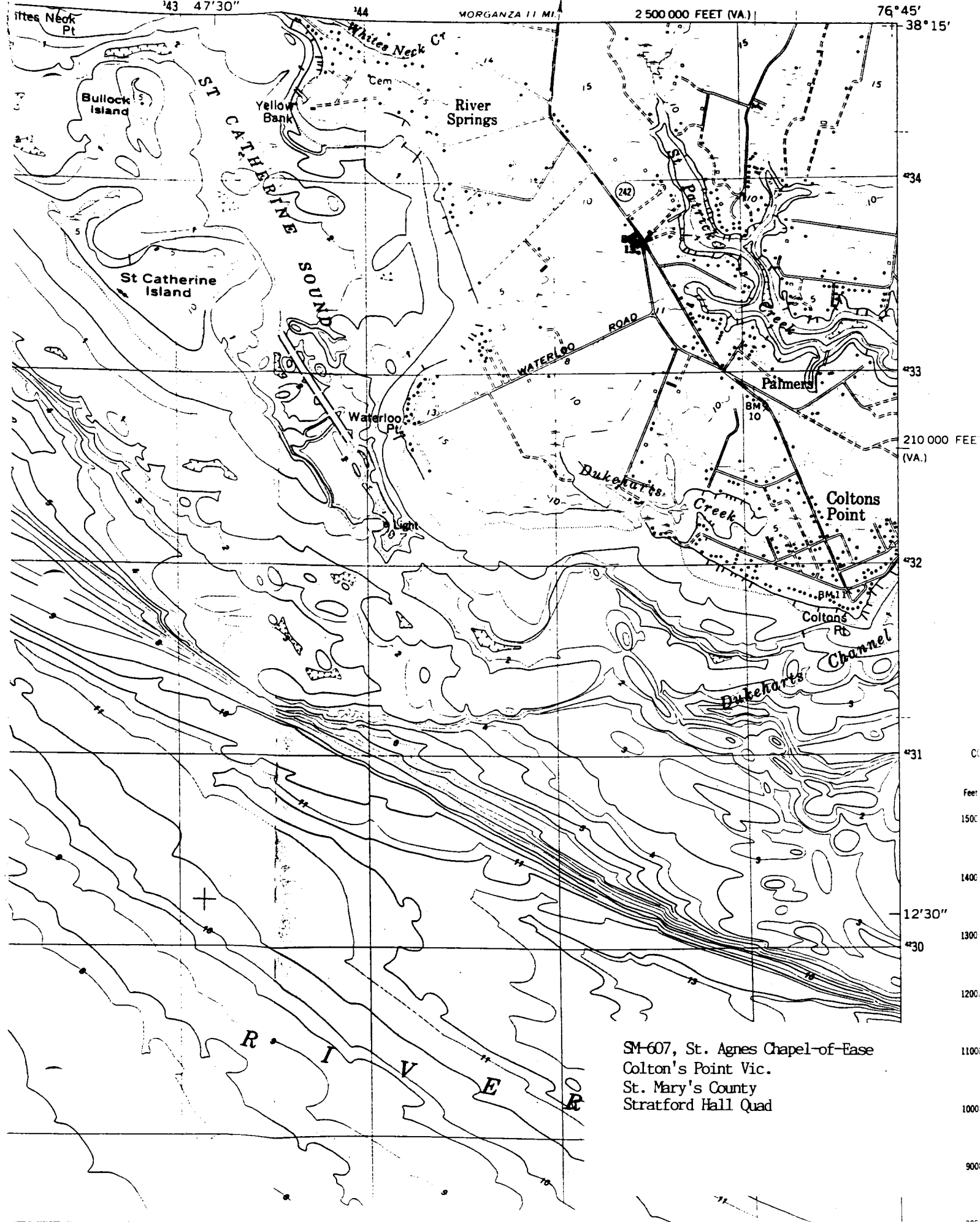
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44

MORGANZA 11 MI

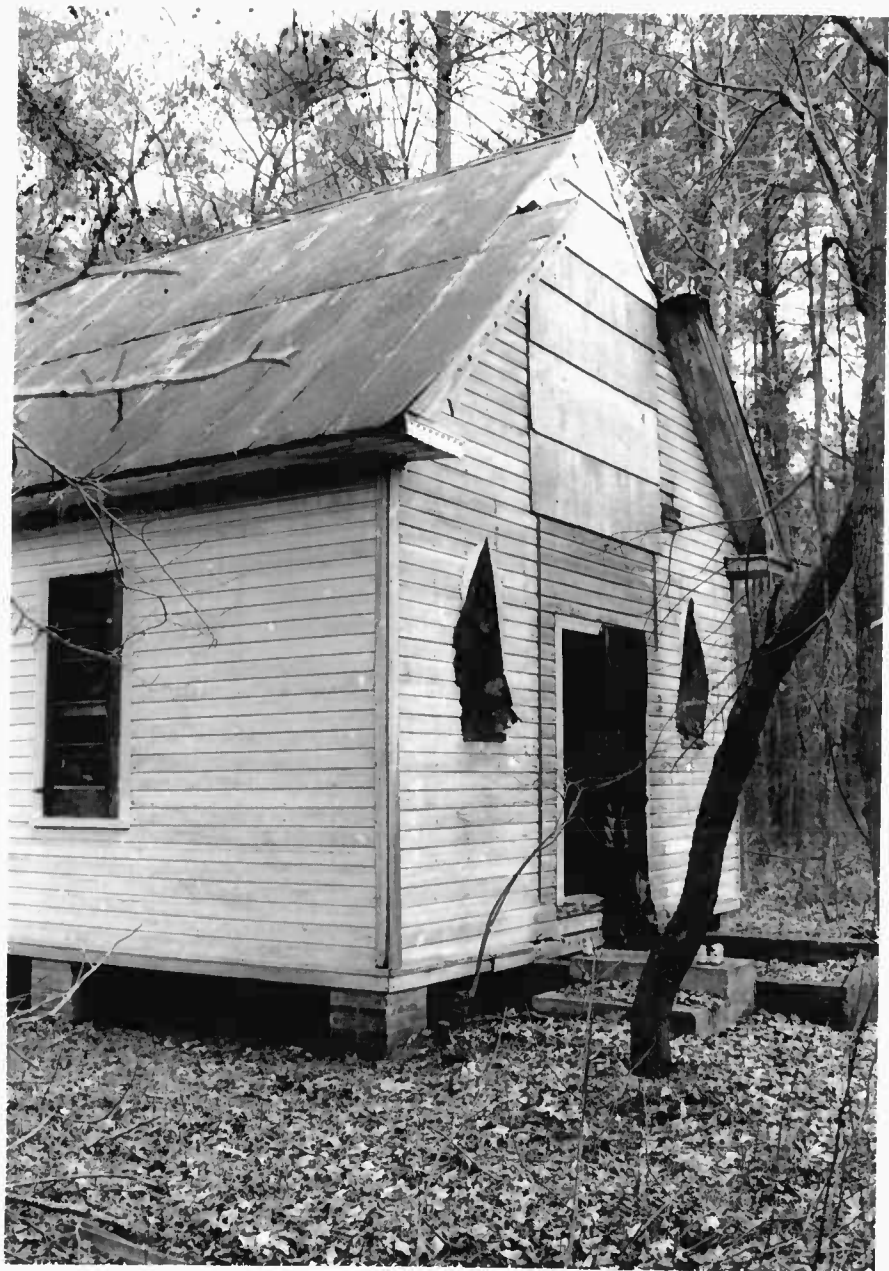
2 500 000 FEET (VA.)

76°45'  
38°15'



SM-607, St. Agnes Chapel-of-Ease  
Colton's Point Vic.  
St. Mary's County  
Stratford Hall Quad













SM-607

St. Agnes Chapel of Ease

St. Mary's County

Kirk Fordell's

200/97

11d 5410

W. E. Kuntz, 10000 1/2 1/2 1/2

2 of 2